

Karen Schambach
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July 3, 2013

Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
Attn: Sixto Fernandez, Grants Manager
Grants and Cooperative Agreements
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816-7100

By email to: OHVInfo@parks.ca.gov

Re: Proposed changes to OHMVR Grant regulations

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

Per the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, please consider the following comments on changes to the OHMVR Division's proposed changes to the Grants program. These comments follow a quick review of the proposed changes; I may amend or supplement these following a more in depth review of the proposed changes.

4970.10.2 Development – Federal land managers can't agree to the 25-year requirement. If circumstances require an OHV area to be closed, they have to close it. It is my understanding the 25-year requirement was eliminated some years ago for this reason.

4970.15.1. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) – **4970.10.2** requires 10% of funds be "Available"; this section requires it be "distributed." This could cause some confusion. We suggest you be consistent and use one term or the other.

Ground operations Project criterion 8. (Currently criterion 9 - Access to non-motorized recreation.) While the content of this criterion is not proposed to be changed, we suggest it should be. Applicants check these boxes for projects such as the Rubicon Trail, which provides access only to highly modified off-road vehicles. The intent of the legislation behind this regulation is to ensure that the recreationists driving on dirt roads who contribute most fuel taxes to the program derive appropriate benefit. Non-motorized recreationists enjoy no benefit from the Rubicon Trail or similar high-clearance off-road trails, because even though there are opportunities for fishing and camping, these facilities are not accessible. The criterion should be worded to ensure that the access is maintained for and available to normal vehicles, horse trailers, or even passenger vehicles, which most people drive to enjoy fishing, birding, equestrian use, hiking and camping drive. More points should be awarded for providing the above described non-motorized access, in order to satisfy the intent of the legislature, to "give extra consideration" to such activities.

Under "General Criteria," Item 3, "Variety of OHV opportunity" includes only ATV, dirt bike, 4x4, OSV, RUV, Sand Rail/Dune Buggy. This item should include accessibility for vehicles accessing non-motorized recreation as well, including horse trailers, SUVs and normal pick-up trucks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Schambach". The script is cursive and fluid.

Karen Schambach